

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2894

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MUNICH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2352

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR BROWN/FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BU

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS, BULGARIA

REF: BUCHAREST 2351

1. UNDER SECRETARY CAMPBELL TRAVELED SOFIA-PLODIV-SOFIA MAY 19, AND SOFIA-RUSE-BUCHAREST MAY 22 BY CAR. SUMMARY AGRICULTURAL OBSERVATIONS IN BULGARIA FOLLOW. SEE REFTEL FOR AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN ROMANIA.

2. SOIL MOISTURE. ALL CROPS AND NATURAL VEGETATION REFLECTED RAINY WEATHER WHICH PREVAILED MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY. SOIL MOSITURE EXCELLENT ALL AREAS. AUGMENTATION OF SOIL MOSITURE RESERVES SHOULD MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR DELAY IN PLANTING LATE CROPS (TOBACCO AND CORN). WINTER CROPS, PASTURES, AND EARLY SPRING CROPS HAVE OBVIOUSLY BENEFITTED FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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ABUNDANT SPRING RAINS.

3. WINTER GRAIN. WINTER WHEAT (BEZOSTAYA-1, AURORA, KAVKAZ OR OTHERS SIMILAR TO THESE SOVIET VARIETIES) ARE EXCELLENT IN ALL RESPECTS. STANDS GOOD, FEW WEEDS NOTICEABLE. HEIGHT 2 1/2 FEET, LARGE HEADS. GIVEN A MONTH OF GOOD WEATHER, YIELDS WILL BE AT, OR NEAR, RECORD LEVELS. WINTER BARLEY EQUALY EXCELLENT, BUT MOST FIELDS HAD SOME LODGING- IN SOME FIELDS UP TO TWO/THIRDS OF TOTAL AREA. BARLEY IN MILKY TO MILK-WAX STAGE; WITH FAVORABLE WEATHER, HARVEST WILL BEGIN IN ROUGHLY TWO WEEKS.

4. CORN. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, ALL CORN LATE PLANTED OR STUNTED BY COOL WEATHER. HEIGHT RANGED BETWEEN 4-12 INCHES; MOST AT 6 INCHES

(LOCAL SOURCE SAID CORN SHOULD BE 15-18 INCHES NOW). COLOR TOWARD YELLOW, REFLECTING COOL, RAINY WEATHER. GERMINATION GOOD; STANDS EVEN. FIELDS CLEAR, OR BEING CULTIVATED.

5. ROW CROPS. SUGAR BEETS AT 6 INCHES EXCELLENT: GOOD STANDS, VIGOROUS GROWTH, FEW WEEKS. POTATOES AT 8-10 INCHES IMPRESSIVE; GOOD COLOR AND GROWTH. SUNFLOWERS OUTSTANDING ROW CROP. STANDS EVEN, FIELDS CLEAN, DEVELOPMENT GOOD AT 8-15 INCHES (AVERAGE HEIGHT 10 INCHES LONG ABUNDANT SPRING RAINFALL SHOULD BENEFIT ALL THESE CROPS.

6. FORAGE CROP. ALL PASTURES AND NATURAL VEGETATION LUSH; RESULT ABOVE-AVERAGE MOSITURE. VETCH AND VETCH-OATS MIXTURE GOOD AT 12 INCHES, BUT WEEDY ALFALFA GOOD; ALSO WEEDY. FIRST CUTTING UNDERWAY, ALTHOUGH FIRST FLOWERING TWO WEEKS HENCE. VIETS

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